



EAST TEXAS A&M

UNIVERSITY

ART 2326 - 01 E 81293 Sculpture I

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2026

EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Instructor: Josephine Durkin

Office Location: Sculpture Lab (ASL 119)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays by Appointment

Office Phone: 903.886.5208 (Main Office Phone)

Email: Josephine.Durkin@etamu.edu

Class Information

Fall 2026: 8/20/2026 through 12/11/2026

Credits: 3.00

Meeting times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00pm-4:50pm

Location: Art Sculpture Lab (ASL 119)

Preferred Form of Communication: Text 903.268.5081

Communication outside of class, including regular (3 x week minimum in-progress image and text-based updates): Due to neurological needs, please use text as a substitute for email, as that is the best way for me to process, keep track of, and respond to your progress. Text anytime outside of class, as I often have my phone on "Focus / Silent" and will check texts daily when able. I typically respond within 24 hours, but sometimes up to 72 hours if it's the weekend. 903.268.5081.

Course Description

This course provides an introductory exposure to working with a variety of materials, tools and techniques, including paper, cardboard, tape, flexible mold making, plaster, fabric, paper and resin casting. Installation methods will also be discussed, including individual and group methods and strategies. Lectures will highlight artists who use related materials and methods in their work, as well as the connection between material, scale and meaning. Students will learn through shorter, more specific projects, and then use this material and technical knowledge to create their own work in

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longer-term projects. Individual projects will vary depending on personal interests and ambitions.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to:

- Discuss contemporary artists related to their work and class projects
- Discuss the relationship between material and meaning
- Discuss the relationship between artists, viewers and affect
- Demonstrate knowledge of hand sewing, paper and fabric constructions
- Demonstrate knowledge of woodworking
- Demonstrate knowledge of flexible mold making, plaster and resin casting
- Discuss strategies involving processes, materials and installation methods
- Discuss art formally and conceptually
- Demonstrate knowledge about quality craftsmanship
- Demonstrate the ability to respond to, and talk about their work and the work of others
- Demonstrate the importance of documentation through a professional website of their work
- Demonstrate the ability to document the process of making the work they create for this class

Course Requirements

Textbooks, Technologies and Materials

Textbook(s) Required: No textbook is required.

Software Required: You will need a camera or cell phone to take photographs (and possibly video) of your work. You will need to use either a free or paid for website host for your website. Options will be discussed. Please contact the instructor and GA if you have questions or concerns about using the technology.

Suggested Text Books and Resources

- Gallery and museum websites
- Art 21(free, online videos)
- Other online research (technical and material

Required Materials

Individual tools:

Plastic tote to store materials (no need to buy these - we have them for you!)

A good pair of sharp scissors (adult size)

X-acto knife

Utility knife

Pencils and pens

Materials will be provided for demos and small, intro projects. Materials for individual,

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sculptural works will be purchased by students, and will vary depending on project needs.

Write your name on all your tools and supplies. Make sure to label your materials and projects when storing them in the storage area.

Instructional Methods

This course is 16 weeks long. It will consist of:

Lectures

Discussion

Demos of materials and techniques

Short-term projects

Three, student-driven sculptural projects

Class workdays and individual, project meetings

Installation of your work, class critiques, and a final, class exhibition Website portfolio

In-progress, constructive feedback throughout the course

Expectations

1. Working in and outside of class is required. Expect to spend at least 6 hours per week outside of class. Access to the studio at night and on weekends (with the exception of holidays) will be through the swipecard system.
2. Completion of required work by the critique dates is required.
3. Criticism and discussion are important aspects of artistic activity and development. Attendance and active, thoughtful verbal participation at all critiques is mandatory.
4. Participation in class activities, including installation, critique, meetings and clean- up is required. Making art often requires teamwork and group problem solving – both technically and conceptually!
5. Students are expected to engage in personal research, depending on project needs. If possible, it is in the best interest of each student to visit galleries and museums in the DFW area.
6. Students are expected to attend all exhibitions in The University Gallery as well as other events hosted by the Department of Art.
7. General Studio Rules:

Clean up at the end of each class.

Specific safety rules will be given at the beginning of the semester. Grading

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale: 90-100% A | 80-89% B | 70-79% C | 60-69% D | 0-59% F

Assignment Grading Details:

Grading is based on a completion of course assignments, quality of individual technical and critical development, personal commitment and ability to work in a community studio setting. Personal commitment involves regular attendance, consistent effort,

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following demos and instructions, completion of work and participation in group critiques, as well as the willingness to try new things and take creative risks. This includes technical and material problem solving. In addition to learning from me, students learn from each other as well as outside of class, safely, on their own- through the process of learning by doing, trial and error. Successfully finding out what does and doesn't work is valuable – and should be shared with the group to add material and technical knowledge to our growing "toolboxes".

Assignments: 80% Class participation: 20%

Late Work:

Assignments may not be turned in late unless there is a legitimate documented emergency. You must contact me before the due date and ask for an extension. I will consider each request on a case-by-case basis. Late assignments will automatically lose 20% of the grade and must be submitted by the final critique.

Assignment Submission & Format:

All work is due completed by the due date listed in the assignment. Images of your finished projects should be posted in the assignment in D2L, within a week of the critique, to receive full credit. Turning assignments in via D2L is not a substitute for turning them in in-person. Assignments will not be graded in D2L unless they are first turned in in-person. Due dates may change if needed.

Assessments

Projects will be graded as follows:

A (Excellent) will be given to ambitious projects that demonstrate superior conceptual, expressive, and technical abilities. A sustained and committed work ethic must be evident.

B (Good) will be given to those projects that complete the requirements of the assignment in a creative manner, display a good level of technique, and in which a good work ethic is evident.

C (Average) is given to those projects that satisfy the specifications of the assignment on an adequate level. Reasonable effort has been demonstrated in order to complete the assignments.

D (Passing - Minimum) will be given to those projects which attempt to address the assignments but which fall short in understanding, creativity of solution, quality of technique, and effort.

F (Failure) is given to projects that show a complete lack of understanding, creativity, and effort.

Note: How-to, intro assignments will not be graded to reflect conceptual strength. They function as technical and material introductions to various processes and strategies.

Course Procedures and Policies

Attendance Policy

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Attendance is critical for your success in this course. Students are expected to be present in each class, with materials ready to work. Demos and critiques will usually start about 20 minutes after the start of class – so make sure to not miss a demo or critique. Due to the physical nature of the environment and processes, clean-up as well as lab set up (covering tables, etc. for demos) is a team effort. Missing this teamwork will negatively affect your grade. You may not miss a critique unless it is arranged in advance, or due to documented emergencies. No distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences. Please contact the instructor in advance of any absence. Students are expected to communicate with each other, as well as the GA, to catch up on homework and demos. Demos and homework direction will not be repeated in their full capacity. Should you need to miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact other students and the GA, in order to keep up with the homework, projects and information provided in class.

Studio culture and cell phone usage

We will be working together in a shared space. Each student is expected to treat other students, the instructor and GA with respect. Cell phones should either be turned off or muted. In the case that you are expecting a call related to a family emergency, please let me, as well as Assel know at the beginning of class. In this instance, you are expected to step outside of the class to take the call before answering it. Should you need to do online research for your current projects in this class, please let me and Assel know. Students are not permitted to engage in online research during lectures and demonstrations.

For the health and safety of everyone, please clean up your workspace, table, floor and all tools and equipment that you used before you leave the studio. Good life, very much appreciated, life rule of thumb: Always leave the studio (or any other space) cleaner than you found it!

Headphones: You may wear headphones when working on your individual, long-term projects, but may not wear them during announcements, lectures, demos, discussions, clean-up, group set-up or critiques. This is a safety issue, and is necessary for your progress in this class.

Video and audio recording is prohibited during this class. In certain circumstances, please discuss and gain permission in advance (documenting certain projects and processes for reference and presentation).

Respect for Diversity

Each student is welcome, and should also *feel* welcome in this class. Everyone is different, as well as embraced (gender, age, race, orientation, etc.), and offers their unique life experiences, perspectives and histories. This adds to our shared learning environment, as well as the work that we make and discuss! Should you have any concerns, please let me know so I can assist. I want to make sure that each student feels welcome, safe and valued in my class.

Safety

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Always wear closed-toe shoes and studio-appropriate clothes that you can work in. It is important that your body be protected from certain tools and materials. Athletic wear (shorts, crop tops, flip flops, crocs with holes, etc.) or other minimal clothing is not encouraged for safety reasons. Jeans, work pants, tennis shoes, work boots – clothes that provide coverage that you feel comfortable getting dirty (mold making and casting materials can be messy!) are important to wear. Aprons are great for protecting clothing, and you can also leaving a set of studio clothes in your plastic tote should that work best for you.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Technology Requirements LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Should you have a personal computer issue, please problem solve as needed. This may include reaching out to a friend or family member to borrow a computer, using computers available at the local library or accessible computer labs on campus, accessing wifi at Starbucks or on campus, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor (and the GA).

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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University Specific Procedures Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.p df](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among

other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

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East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students 'Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Department of Art, Health and Safety Guidelines: All students enrolled in face-to-face art courses are required to comply with the procedures and policies of the Department of Art's Health and Safety Guidelines. The Guidelines cover activities in all East Texas

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A&M art facilities on both the main campus and off-campus sites. Please report any safety issues immediately to your instructor(s), per health and safety guidelines outlined, studio/lab assistant, or the Department of Art, studio technician & health/safety liaison.

https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/art/documents/DOA_health_safety_handbook.pdf

Health and Safety Form (to be signed online by all students)

<https://dms.tamuc.edu/Forms/ArtLabPolicy>

Please, click on the following link to access East Texas A&M's Covid 19 Information,

<https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

Course Calendar:

Our first class is on Tuesday, August 26th.

Project names are listed in the Activity / Assignment section of D2L.

Sample Schedule (Subject to Change)

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1

Thurs 8/20 – Welcome! Course Overview + Intro to Sculpture Lab Safety + Tools.

Introduction to first assignment: Material Engineering – Cardboard Brooms and Dustpans.

Week 2

Tues 8/25 – Studio / Demo: Cardboard Brooms and Dustpans – continued work.

Thurs 8/27 – Studio / Demo: Cardboard Brooms and Dustpans – continued work.

Week 3

Tues 9/1 – Cardboard Brooms and Dustpans due.

Thurs 9/3 – Intro to Flexible Mold Making. Demo: Materials + Techniques.

Week 4

Tues 9/8 – Studio / Demo: Flexible Mold Making – continued work.

Thurs 9/10 – Studio / Demo: Flexible Mold Making – continued work.

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Week 5

Tues 9/15 – Flexible Mold Making project due.

Thurs 9/17 – Intro to Plaster and Life Casting. Demo: Safety + Techniques.

Week 6

Tues 9/22 – Studio / Demo: Plaster and Life Casting – continued work.

Thurs 9/24 – Studio / Demo: Plaster and Life Casting – continued work.

Week 7

Tues 9/29 – Plaster and Life Casting project due.

Thurs 10/1 – Intro to Paper and Fabric Casting. Demo: Materials + Techniques.

Week 8

Tues 10/6 – Studio / Demo: Paper and Fabric Casting – continued work.

Thurs 10/8 – Studio / Demo: Paper and Fabric Casting – continued work.

Week 9

Tues 10/13 – Paper and Fabric Casting project due.

Thurs 10/15 – Intro to Documentation. Demo: Photographing 3D work, lighting, composition.

Week 10

Tues 10/20 – Studio / Demo: Documentation – continued work.

Thurs 10/22 – Documentation project due.

Week 11

Tues 10/27 – Final Project Launch: Student-Driven Project – Moldmaking and Casting utilizing skills and materials learned this semester. Concept Development + Sketches.

Thurs 10/29 – Studio Work + Individual Meetings.

Week 12

Tues 11/3 – Studio Work.

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Thurs 11/5 – Studio Work.

Week 13

Tues 11/10 – Mid-Critique / Peer Review.

Thurs 11/12 – Studio Work + Revisions.

Week 14

Tues 11/17 – Studio Work + Final Push.

Thurs 11/19 – Documentation Prep + Studio Work.

Week 15

Tues 11/24 – Flexible Work Schedule – Individual meetings, studio time, or catch-up as needed.

Thurs 11/26 – No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday.

Week 16

Tues 12/1 – FINAL PROJECTS DUE – In-class presentation / critique.

Thurs 12/3 – Individual meetings / Grade review.

Finals Week

Tues 12/8 or Thurs 12/10 (exam slot TBD by class time) – Final Exam: Lab Clean-up / Wrap-up. Studio reset, tool inventory, portfolio Q&A.

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